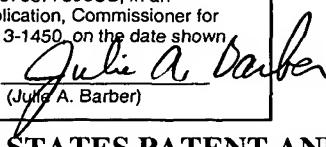


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV078877590US, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.  
Dated: August 21, 2003

Signature:   
(Julie A. Barber)

Docket No.: 60680-1748  
(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Mark A. Leimer

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.:

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

For: **VALVE STEM SEAL ASSEMBLY WITH  
CHANGEABLE CAP**

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement accompanies the new patent application submitted herewith.

A copy of each U.S. patent documents referenced on PTO/SB/08 is not attached pursuant to the new policy requirements set by the Patent Office under 37 CFR 1.491(b).

A concise explanation of relevance of the items listed on form PTO/SB/08 is not given.

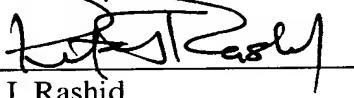
In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. 60680-1748. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: August 21, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Peter J. Rashid  
Registration No.: 39,464  
(248) 594-0633  
Attorneys for Applicant

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

|                                 |   |    |   |                          |                       |
|---------------------------------|---|----|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO |   |    |   | <b>Complete if Known</b> |                       |
|                                 |   |    |   | Application Number       | Not Yet Assigned      |
|                                 |   |    |   | Filing Date              | Concurrently Herewith |
|                                 |   |    |   | First Named Inventor     | Mark A. Leimer        |
|                                 |   |    |   | Art Unit                 | N/A                   |
|                                 |   |    |   | Examiner Name            | Not Yet Assigned      |
| Sheet                           | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number   | 60680-1748            |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |  |                                |  |   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials*    | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
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|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials*       | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|                          |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                |  |   |
|                          |                       |   |                                |  | T <sup>6</sup>  |

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| Examiner Initials*              | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |  |  |  |
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| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
|--------------------|-----------------|